

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY STATEWIDE WATER MANAGEMENT ACT GRANT RFR #: BWR 2021-WMA

COMMBUYS #: BD-21-1045-BWR00-BWR01-53484

<u>Summary of Grant Opportunity:</u> The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Bureau of Resource Protection, has issued a Request for Responses (RFR) for Water Management ACT (WMA) grants to provide funding for planning assistance, conservation/demand management, and withdrawal impact mitigation projects in local communities

<u>Grant Opportunity Application and Requirements:</u> MassDEP's Request for Responses (RFR) for WMA grants was posted on MassDEP's website on July 23 2020, and MassDEP's deadline for Responses to the RFR is September 10, 2020. All Grant documents can be located at the following link: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers

<u>Eligible Entities</u>: Responses to the RFR may be submitted by any Massachusetts public water supplier or municipality with a valid Water Management Act permit or registration. Cooperative proposals are encouraged.

Eligible Projects: The focus of the WMA grants is for: 1) planning projects for specific watersheds or subwatersheds to identify implementation projects to improve ecological conditions; 2) conservation projects aimed to reduce the demand for water within a municipality or a watershed, such as rate studies or drought resiliency planning; and 3) withdrawal mitigation projects that address the following: improve or increase instream flow, wastewater projects that keep water local, stormwater management projects that improve recharge, reduce impervious cover and/or improve water quality, water supply operational improvements, habitat improvement, demand management, reduction of wastewater inflow and infiltration, and other projects that can be demonstrated to mitigate the impacts of water withdrawals.

<u>Funding Availability:</u> It is currently anticipated that the total funding available for this program is approximately 1 million dollars. Any additional grant funding is contingent upon appropriation by the Massachusetts legislature.

<u>Grant Application Process:</u> The RFR contains a schedule for each step of the application process, including the timeline for submission of Responses to the RFR. Applications are reviewed and

recommended by a screening committee comprised of MassDEP, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Grant Evaluation Criteria: The grant evaluation criteria is as specified in the RFR.

<u>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u> The RFR and additional information can be found at: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers